MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

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THE NEW WARRIORS™

GUEST-STARRING
SLAPSTICK!™

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

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COVER BY REGGIE JONES

NEW WARRIORS

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT
PART 5 OF 5
"TIME WOUNDS ALL HEALS"

WRITER .....FABIAN NICIEZA
PENCILS .....ROBERT WALKER
INKS .....JOHN STANISCI
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....MARYANN LIGHTLE

Dr. Yesterday has manipulated the ambient temporal energy around Manhattan, creating a mess for The New Warriors to straighten out. Straighten it out they do in the timely conclusion of "SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT"!

TIGRA

SLAVE OF PASSION
PART 2 OF 4, "ENRAGED"

WRITER .....DAVID DeVREIS
PENCILS .....JOHN CZOP
INKS .....PABLO MARCOS
LETTERS.....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....MARYANN LIGHTLE

Raiders have come seeking slaves for their Sultan master. The feral Tigra has discovered the aftermath of their vicious attack, and sets out, seeking revenge!

NEXT ISSUE:

THING...AND MAN-THING!

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear Marvel Mayhem-makers,

I would like to see Rocket Raccoon get a story in these pages. He is one of my favorite characters and I find it very annoying that you have not put him in Marvel Comics Presents yet. I would especially like to also see the return of Rocket's supporting cast, particulary Lylla, Wal Russ, and Blackjack O' Hare (All three of whom haven't been seen since ROCKET RACCOON #4). Please can you put Rocket Raccoon in MCP?

Andrew Kieswetter
37 The Cove Rd.
Adelaide, South Australia
5049

Who? Seriously Andrew, there just doesn't seem to be a demand for ol' R. R. Yours is the first letter mentioning him we've gotten in years. And unless we were suddenly deluged with letters from his fans, or a writer came up with a real good proposal for his use, you most likely won't see him within the pages of MCP.

Dear MCP,

I'm glad that I ordered MCP #'s 160-163! At last I'll have seen the origin of Mace. When I saw him in VENOM, and learned that he was connected with the Sunrise Society I was intrigued. I hadn't seen or heard anything concerning the Sunrise Society for a few years. Since they are on the move again, how about a Shadowmasters trade-paperback? And maybe later on you could create a Mace, Shadowmasters limited series! I think that it would make for excellent reading. Mace has definite possibilities. I hope that you will allow enough time to pass in order to explore said possibilities. You should also continue to update his mace.

John W. Migala
P.O. Box 2711
Fontana, CA 92334

Glad you got a charge from Mace's appearance here in MCP, John. We were absolutely floored when we saw the original pages of Barry Crain's and Hilary Barta's work here in the office. As to his future, it seems it is shadowed in secrecy (as you'd expect).

Dear Richard and Michael,

Here's my two cents worth (31 if you include postage). I was going to write you back when you solicited comments on where we'd like to see the comic go in the future, but decided to wait and see what would happen for a little while longer (okay, so I forgot, sue me).

First of all, you've taken care of a couple of my requests without me asking: you now have a regular feature that actually has continuity and a regular creative team from feature to feature (too bad it had to be Vengeance, though). You're starting to have previews of new books again, and if the Hawkeye feature is any indication, you're starting to do "stories that matter". In other words, stories that actually affect the character's history. You have no idea what a pain it is to look forward to a character's reappearance in these pages and find that the story is just a throw-away filler that really could have featured anyone.

However (I'm sure you knew this was coming), I do have a couple other thingS I would like to see: First of all, when

(letters page continues on cover 3)

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COVER BY JOHN CZOP/TIM DZON

VENGEANCE

DIABOLIQUE
PART OF 4
"THE TEST"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES.....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....JOE ANDREANI

If Diabolique is to become Salomé's apprentice, she must first destroy Vengeance.

MACE

"ORIGINS"
PART 4

WRITER .....CARL POTTS
PENCILS .....BARRY CRAIN
INKS .....HILARY BARTA
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

Members of the Sunrise Society seek to unlock the mystery of Dr. Ito's cryogenic vault. Within the vault they find the warrior clone Mace, and more than they bargained for! The conclusion of "ORIGINS".

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

you bring a character back, don't forget about what happened to them before. For example, back when Iron Fist was a regular feature, at the end of the first story, he got a new costume and outlook on life. He has appeared here several times since then, and this hasn't even been mentioned once. Also, in the recent Master of Martial Arts trilogy, this might be getting a little picky: Leiko had two hands. However, sometime in issues # 1-8 of this comic, she lost one of them (I forget which). I know it isn't much, but these little details can detract from one's enjoyment of the story.

Next I was wondering if maybe you could start running some longer stories. I don't mean like that Black Panther twenty-five parter from way back when, but some eight to twelve parters would be nice to see again. That way we can get a little more development going on them before they end.

Also, this may be an odd request, but would you mind using some established villains from now on? I don't necessarily mean in their own feature (though that would be nice), I'm talking more in the other stories. Since issue 31, I have seen enough lame-o-one shot throwaway villains to last me a lifetime. No offense intended to the people who worked on those stories, but the Marvel Universe is cluttered enough as it is. Let's try to use some of the obscure bad guys that are already there, instead of coming up with some more.

I suppose that's all for now. I've been with this title since the beginning and I'd like to see this book be the best it can be. You've taken steps in the right direction and I hope they continue. Before I go, one small request: Can you get George Perez to do a cover? Thanks for your time.

David Phelps
750 Tall Oaks Dr.
#50001
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Thanks for your 31 cents worth David; we're glad you finally got around to writing. We will be running some longer stories in the future; in the works right now is an eight-part Inhumans story, which will feature the art of Robert Black. You may see some big name villains in future issues, but it seems they are always off fighting somewhere else in the Marvel Universe. As Leiuko Wu's hand, c'mon, in a world populated with the likes of Tony Stark, Reed Richards, and the Shi-ar technology responsible for the X-Men's danger room, do you think she would have to walk around with a missing appendage?

Richard and Michael,

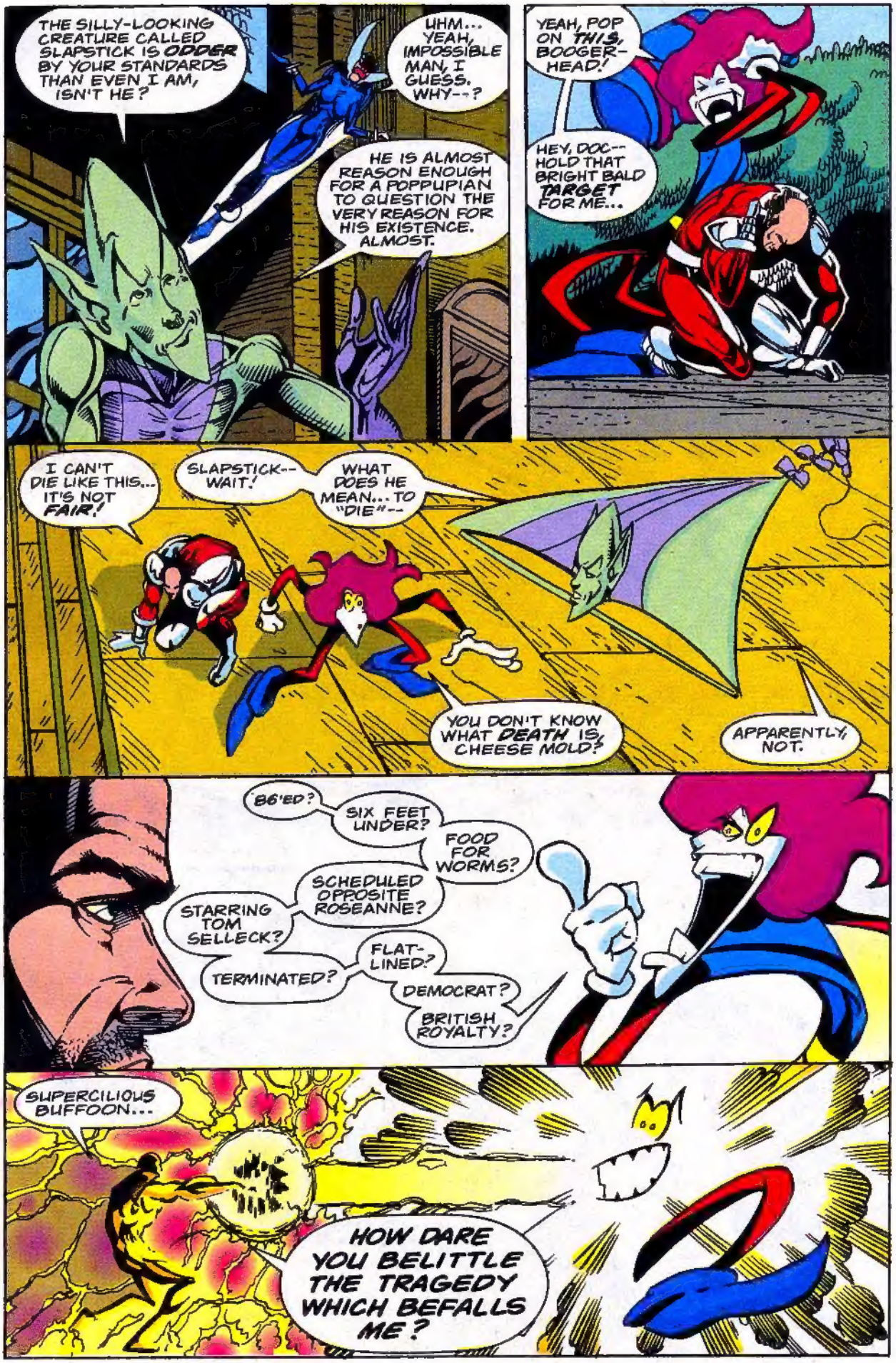
More Fury! More Fury! I guess you can tell who my favorite character is. Since the cancellation of his book I've thought that MCP would be a perfect home for S.H.I.E.L.D. and Colonel Fury. I was so happy to see him in recent issues, and especially liked Colin Macneil's cover. Please lets see more of him! Oh yeah, I'd also like to see more of the Daughters of the Dragon; their appearance in these pages was another high water mark for MCP.

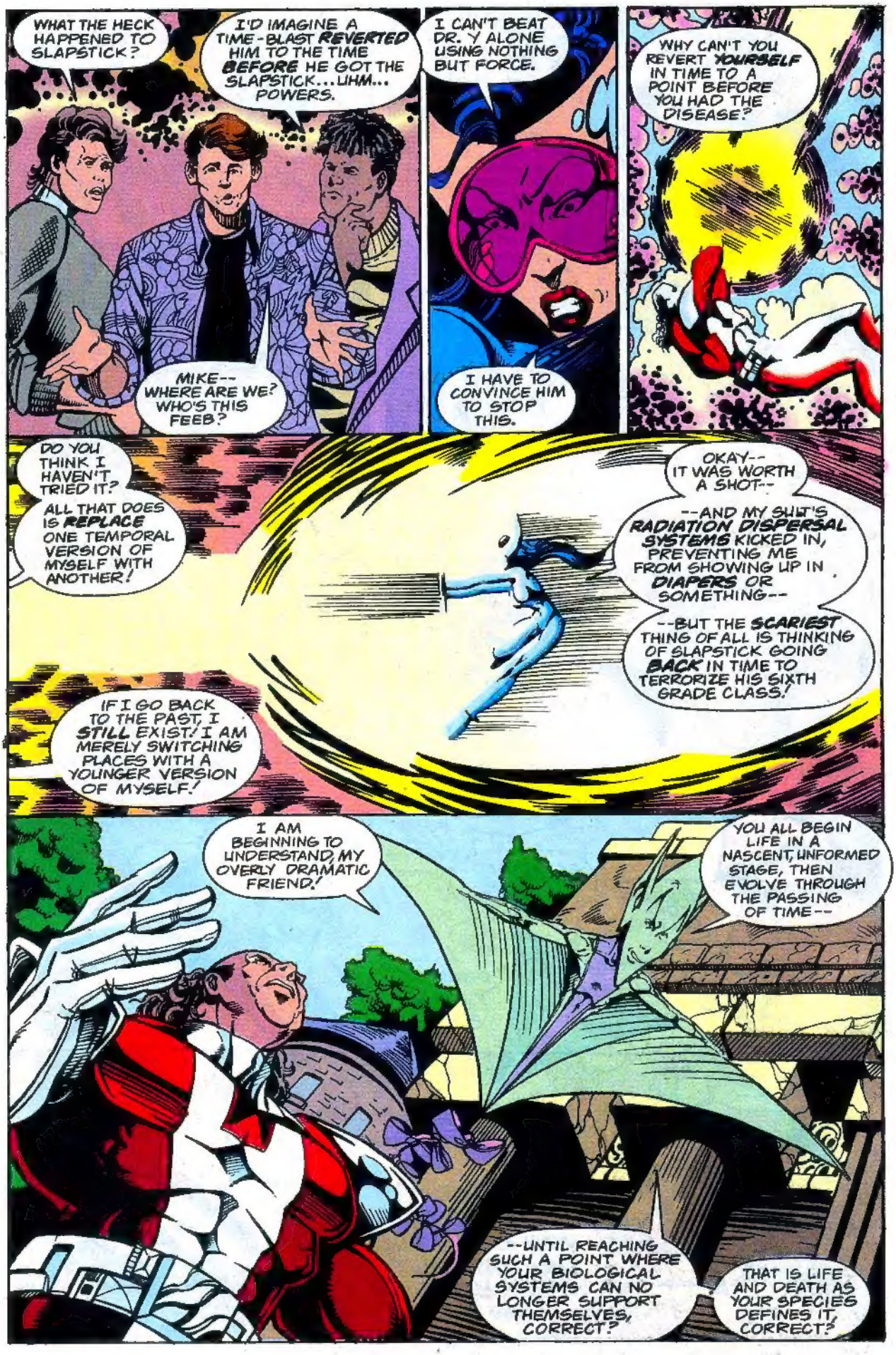
Kevin Bishop
Las Vegas, NV

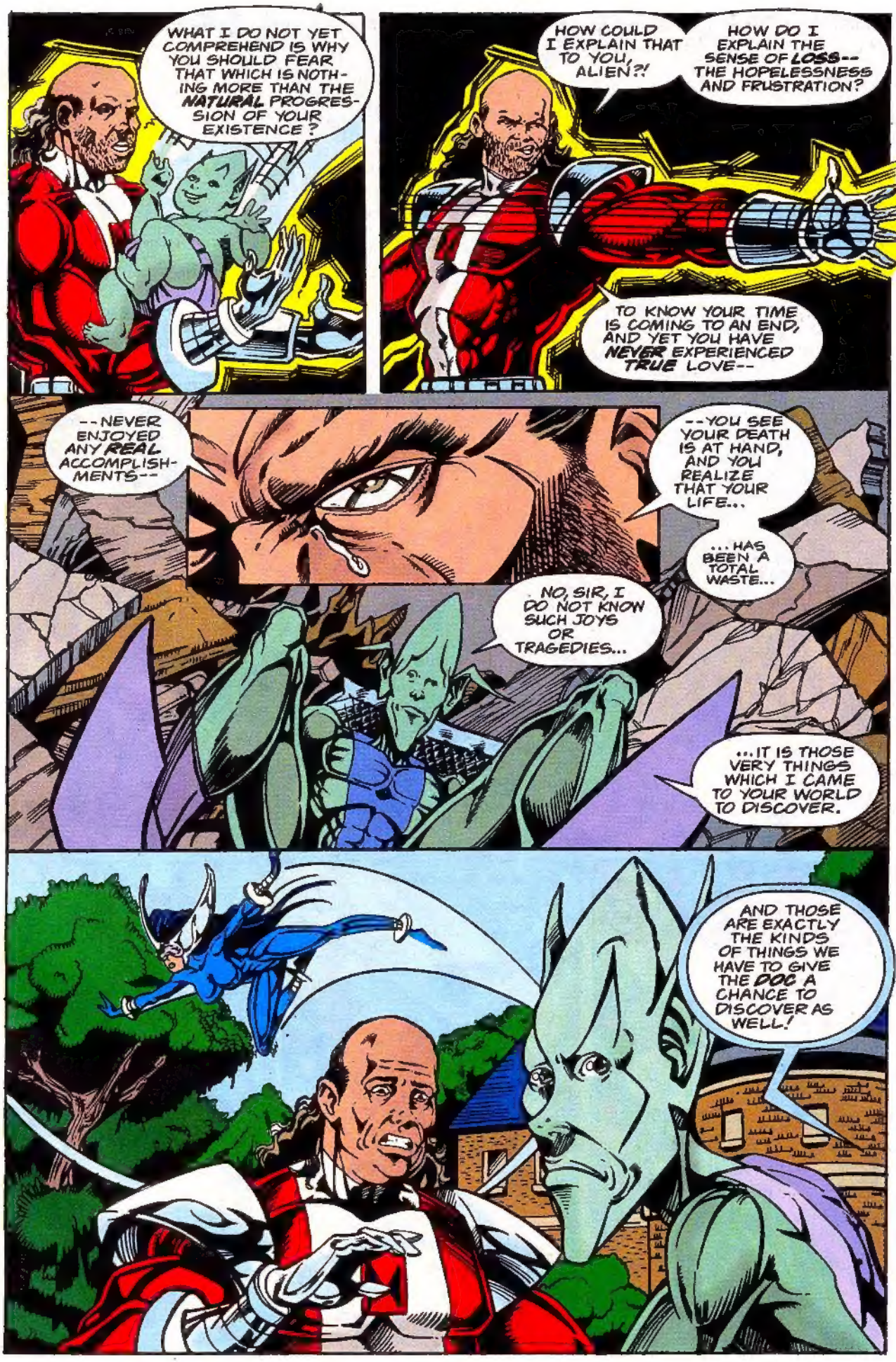
Kevin, you'll be happy to know there is a Nick Fury story waiting within our files. We'll see what we can do to persuade Misty and Colleen to return to our pages.

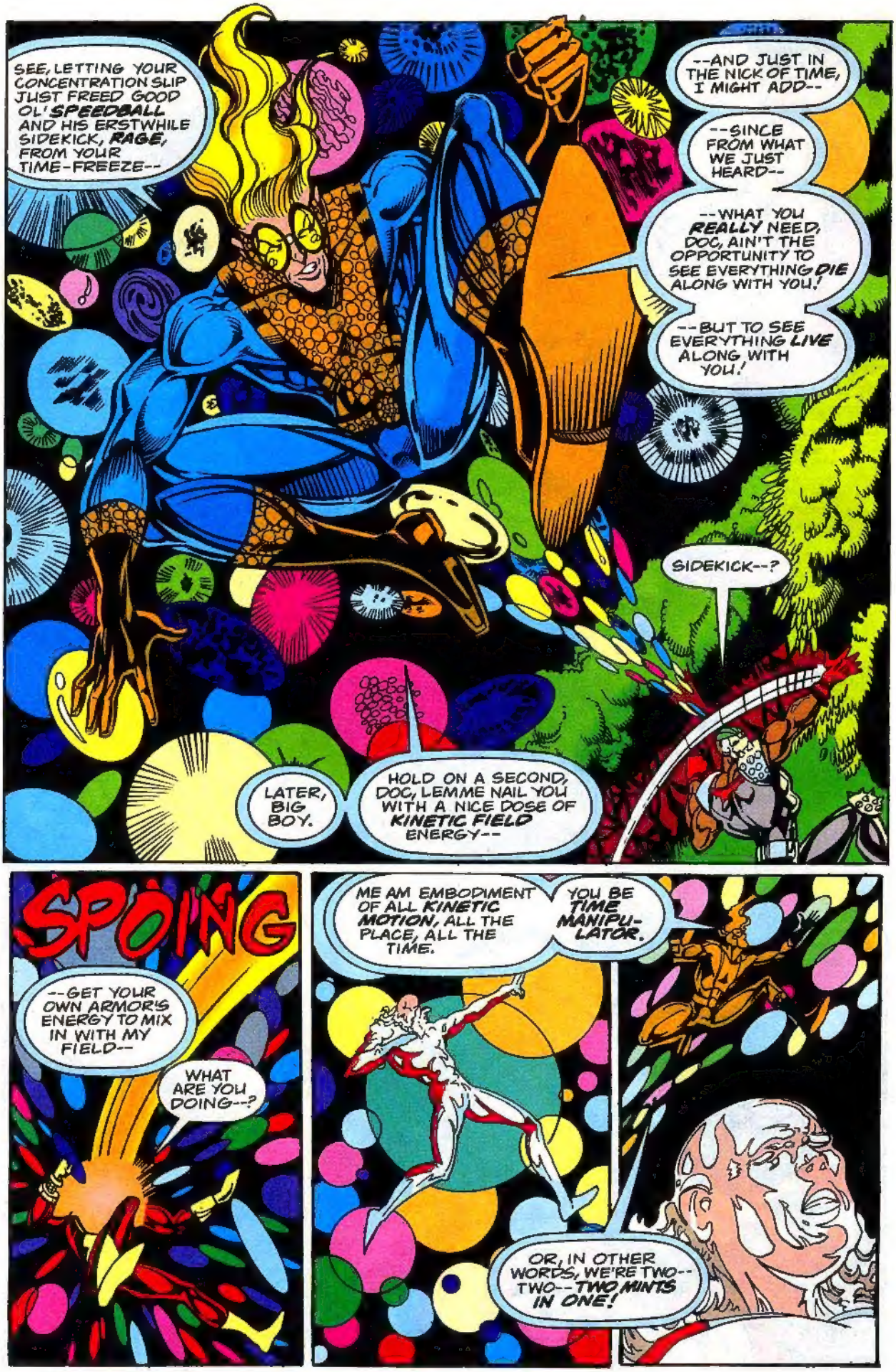
THE NEW WARRIORS
PART FIVE:
TIME WOUNDS ALL HEALS
--I SHALL END TIME ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WHY, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE IT COULD BE FUN!
A REGULAR RIOT, YOU DUMB, GREEN SNOT!
GET OUTTA THE WAY AND I'LL POUND THIS YOKEL BACK IN TIME!
IT BEGAN ONLY AN HOUR AGO, AS A TORTURED MAN NAMED DR. YESTERDAY--
--MANIPULATED THE AMBIENT TEMPORAL ENERGY AROUND MANHATTAN--
--CREATING A SERIES OF UNCONTROLLED CHRONAL POCKETS ACROSS THE ISLAND!
AND IT IS ONLY NOW THAT THE YOUNG TEEN HEROES, THE NEW WARRIORS, AND THEIR INSUFFERABLE ALLIES, SLAPSTICK AND THE ALIEN IMPOSSIBLE MAN, HAVE LEARNED THE REASON WHY...

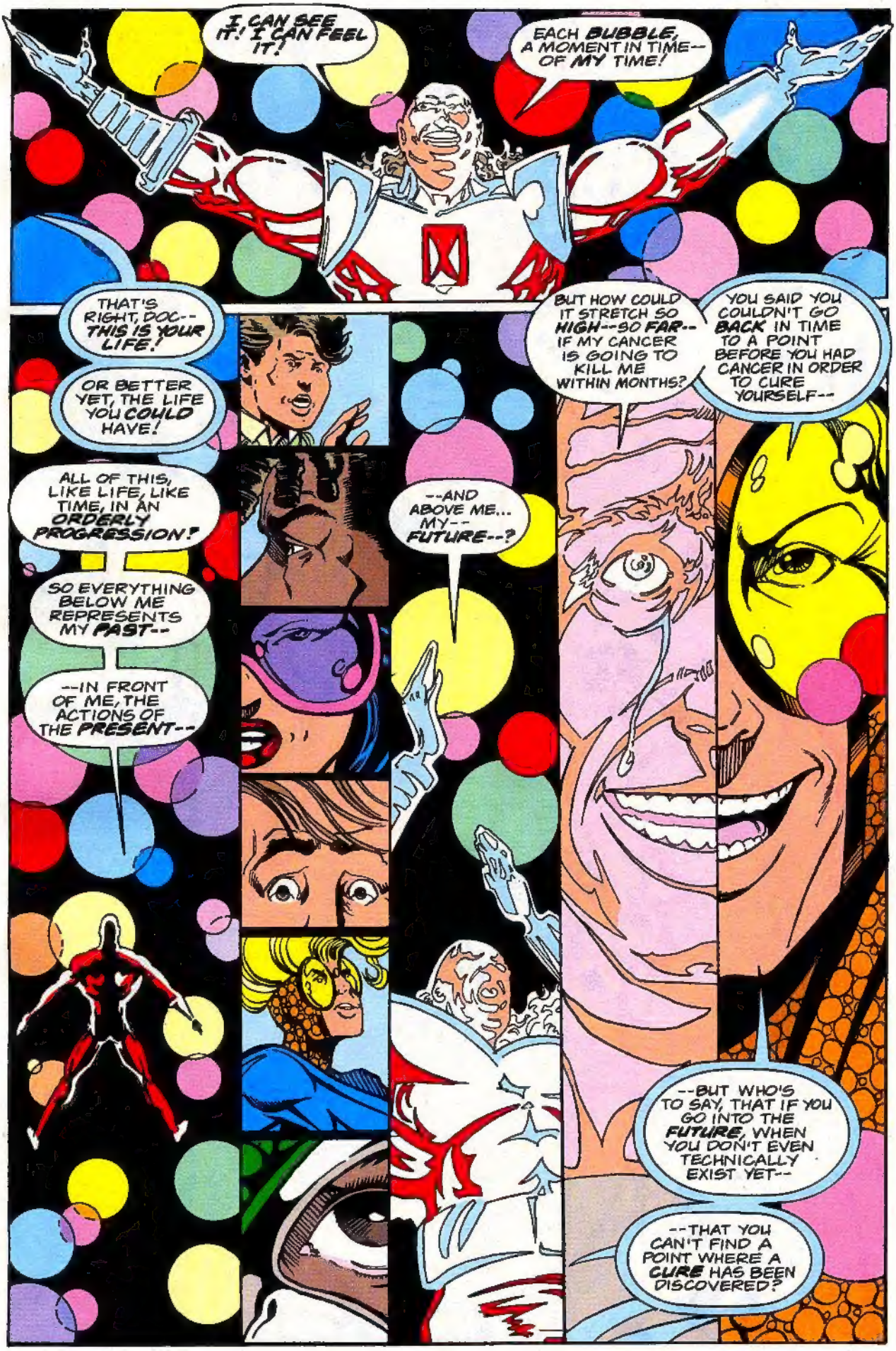
YOU--YOU'RE DOING ALL OF THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE DYING?!
I HAVE A TERMINAL DISEASE, TURBO!
HOW CRUSHINGLY IRONIC IS THAT? ME, A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST WHO DEVOTED HIS LIFE'S STUDY TO THE VAGARIES OF TIME--
--FINDING HIMSELF RUNNING OUT OF IT?
LOOK AT ME!
I CAN CREATE MACHINERY WHICH CAN TAP INTO THE CHRONAL ENERGY FLOATING ABOUT THIS ISLAND--
--FROM THE CONSTANT TIME TRAVEL DONE BY YOU SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES--
--BUT I CAN'T FIND A WAY TO CURE MYSELF OF THIS DISEASE AND AVOID FATE'S COLD, CRUEL TOUCH!
BUT RIPPING ALL OF REALITY APART ISN'T THE SOLUTION EITHER!
A SOLUTION, CHILD? NO, IT IS NOT...
BUT IF I AM TO DIE, THEN WHY SHOULDN'T EVERYONE ELSE?
GEEEZ MARIE! WHAT A FRAGMASTATIN' EGO YOU GOT, SPUDDY!
POUND

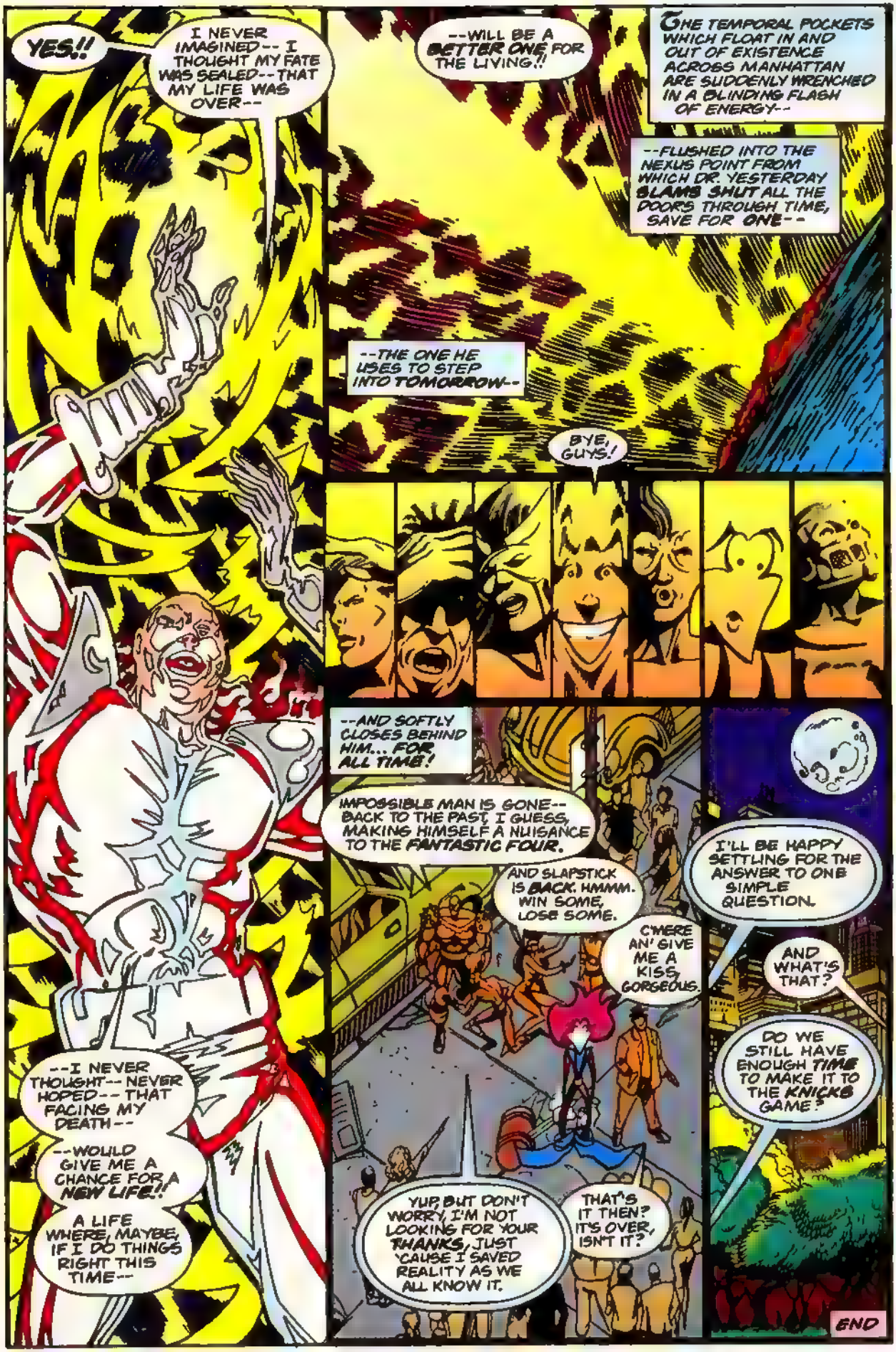

THE SILLY-LOOKING CREATURE CALLED SLAPSTICK IS ODDER BY YOUR STANDARDS THAN EVEN I AM, ISN'T HE?
UHM... YEAH, IMPOSSIBLE MAN, I GUESS. WHY--?
HE IS ALMOST REASON ENOUGH FOR A POPPUPIAN TO QUESTION THE VERY REASON FOR HIS EXISTENCE. ALMOST.
YEAH, POP ON THIS, BOOGER-HEAD!
HEY, DOC-- HOLD THAT BRIGHT BALD TARGET FOR ME...
I CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS... IT'S NOT FAIR!
SLAPSTICK-- WAIT!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN... TO "DIE"--
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DEATH IS, CHEESE MOLD?
APPARENTLY, NOT.
86'ED?
SIX FEET UNDER?
FOOD FOR WORMS?
SCHEDULED OPPOSITE ROSEANNE?
STARRING TOM SELLECK?
FLAT-LINED?
TERMINATED?
DEMOCRAT?
BRITISH ROYALTY?
SUPERCILIOUS BUFFOON...
HOW DARE YOU BELITTLE THE TRAGEDY WHICH BEFALLS ME?


WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO SLAPSTICK?
I'D IMAGINE A TIME-BLAST REVERTED HIM TO THE TIME BEFORE HE GOT THE SLAPSTICK... UHM... POWERS.
MIKE-- WHERE ARE WE? WHO'S THIS FEEB?
I CAN'T BEAT DR. Y ALONE USING NOTHING BUT FORCE.
I HAVE TO CONVINCE HIM TO STOP THIS.
WHY CAN'T YOU REVERT YOURSELF IN TIME TO A POINT BEFORE YOU HAD THE DISEASE?
DO YOU THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED IT? ALL THAT DOES IS REPLACE ONE TEMPORAL VERSION OF MYSELF WITH ANOTHER!
OKAY-- IT WAS WORTH A SHOT--
--AND MY SUIT'S RADIATION DISPERSAL SYSTEMS KICKED IN, PREVENTING ME FROM SHOWING UP IN DIAPERS OR SOMETHING--
--BUT THE SCARIEST THING OF ALL IS THINKING OF SLAPSTICK GOING BACK IN TIME TO TERRORIZE HIS SIXTH GRADE CLASS!
IF I GO BACK TO THE PAST, I STILL EXIST! I AM MERELY SWITCHING PLACES WITH A YOUNGER VERSION OF MYSELF!
I AM BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND, MY OVERLY DRAMATIC FRIEND!
YOU ALL BEGIN LIFE IN A NASCENT, UNFORMED STAGE, THEN EVOLVE THROUGH THE PASSING OF TIME--
--UNTIL REACHING SUCH A POINT WHERE YOUR BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT THEMSELVES, CORRECT?
THAT IS LIFE AND DEATH AS YOUR SPECIES DEFINES IT, CORRECT?


WHAT I DO NOT YET COMPREHEND IS WHY YOU SHOULD FEAR THAT WHICH IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE NATURAL PROGRESSION OF YOUR EXISTENCE?
HOW COULD I EXPLAIN THAT TO YOU, ALIEN?!
HOW DO I EXPLAIN THE SENSE OF LOSS-- THE HOPELESSNESS AND FRUSTRATION?
TO KNOW YOUR TIME IS COMING TO AN END, AND YET YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED TRUE LOVE--
--NEVER ENJOYED ANY REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS--
--YOU SEE YOUR DEATH IS AT HAND, AND YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR LIFE...
...HAS BEEN A TOTAL WASTE...
NO, SIR, I DO NOT KNOW SUCH JOYS OR TRAGEDIES...
...IT IS THOSE VERY THINGS WHICH I CAME TO YOUR WORLD TO DISCOVER.
AND THOSE ARE EXACTLY THE KINDS OF THINGS WE HAVE TO GIVE THE DOC A CHANCE TO DISCOVER AS WELL!


SEE, LETTING YOUR CONCENTRATION SLIP JUST FREED GOOD OL' SPEEDBALL AND HIS ERSTWHILE SIDEKICK, RAGE, FROM YOUR TIME-FREEZE--
--AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, I MIGHT ADD--
--SINCE FROM WHAT WE JUST HEARD--
--WHAT YOU REALLY NEED, DOC, AIN'T THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE EVERYTHING DIE ALONG WITH YOU!
--BUT TO SEE EVERYTHING LIVE ALONG WITH YOU!
SIDEKICK--?
HOLD ON A SECOND, DOC, LEMME NAIL YOU WITH A NICE DOSE OF KINETIC FIELD ENERGY--
LATER, BIG BOY.
SPOING
--GET YOUR OWN ARMOR'S ENERGY TO MIX IN WITH MY FIELD--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?
ME AM EMBODIMENT OF ALL KINETIC MOTION, ALL THE PLACE, ALL THE TIME.
YOU BE TIME MANIPULATOR.
OR, IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE TWO--TWO--TWO MINTS IN ONE!


I CAN SEE IT! I CAN FEEL IT!
EACH BUBBLE, A MOMENT IN TIME-- OF MY TIME!
THAT'S RIGHT, DOC-- THIS IS YOUR LIFE!
OR BETTER YET, THE LIFE YOU COULD HAVE!
ALL OF THIS, LIKE LIFE, LIKE TIME, IN AN ORDERLY PROGRESSION!
SO EVERYTHING BELOW ME REPRESENTS MY PAST--
--IN FRONT OF ME, THE ACTIONS OF THE PRESENT--
--AND ABOVE ME... MY-- FUTURE--?
BUT HOW COULD IT STRETCH SO HIGH--SO FAR-- IF MY CANCER IS GOING TO KILL ME WITHIN MONTHS?
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T GO BACK IN TIME TO A POINT BEFORE YOU HAD CANCER IN ORDER TO CURE YOURSELF--
--BUT WHO'S TO SAY, THAT IF YOU GO INTO THE FUTURE, WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN TECHNICALLY EXIST YET--
--THAT YOU CAN'T FIND A POINT WHERE A CURE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED?


YES!!
I NEVER IMAGINED-- I THOUGHT MY FATE WAS SEALED--THAT MY LIFE WAS OVER--
--I NEVER THOUGHT-- NEVER HOPED-- THAT FACING MY DEATH--
--WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE FOR A NEW LIFE!!
A LIFE WHERE, MAYBE, IF I DO THINGS RIGHT THIS TIME--
--WILL BE A BETTER ONE FOR THE LIVING!!
THE TEMPORAL POCKETS WHICH FLOAT IN AND OUT OF EXISTENCE ACROSS MANHATTAN ARE SUDDENLY WRENCHED IN A BLINDING FLASH OF ENERGY--
--FLUSHED INTO THE NEXUS POINT FROM WHICH DR. YESTERDAY SLAMS SHUT ALL THE DOORS THROUGH TIME, SAVE FOR ONE--
--THE ONE HE USES TO STEP INTO TOMORROW--
BYE, GUYS!
--AND SOFTLY CLOSES BEHIND HIM... FOR ALL TIME!
IMPOSSIBLE MAN IS GONE-- BACK TO THE PAST, I GUESS, MAKING HIMSELF A NUISANCE TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
AND SLAPSTICK IS BACK. HMMM. WIN SOME, LOSE SOME.
C'MERE AN' GIVE ME A KISS, GORGEOUS.
YUP, BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR THANKS, JUST 'CAUSE I SAVED REALITY AS WE ALL KNOW IT.
THAT'S IT THEN? IT'S OVER, ISN'T IT?
I'LL BE HAPPY SETTLING FOR THE ANSWER TO ONE SIMPLE QUESTION.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
DO WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE IT TO THE KNICKS GAME?
END

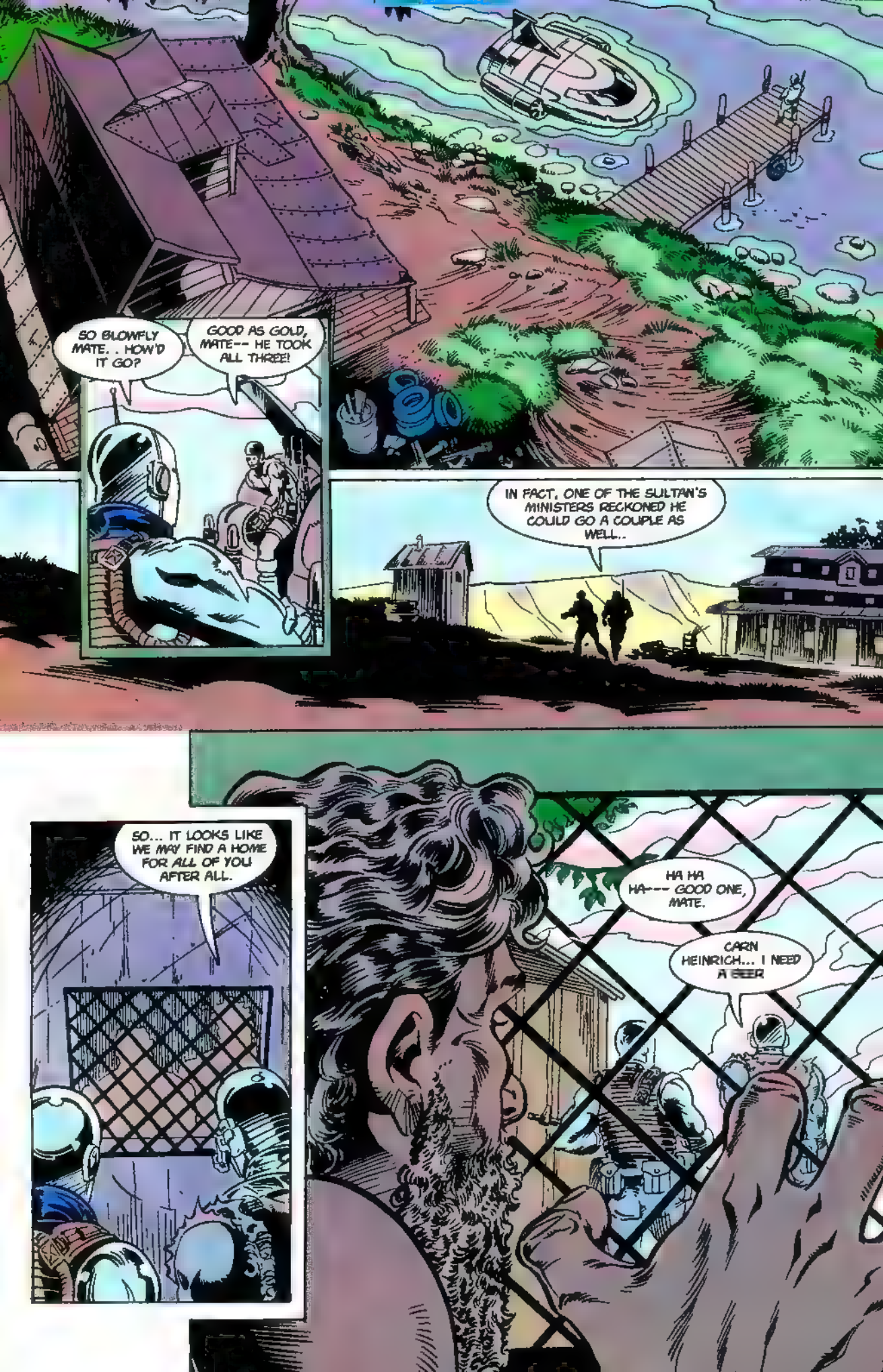
ENRAGED

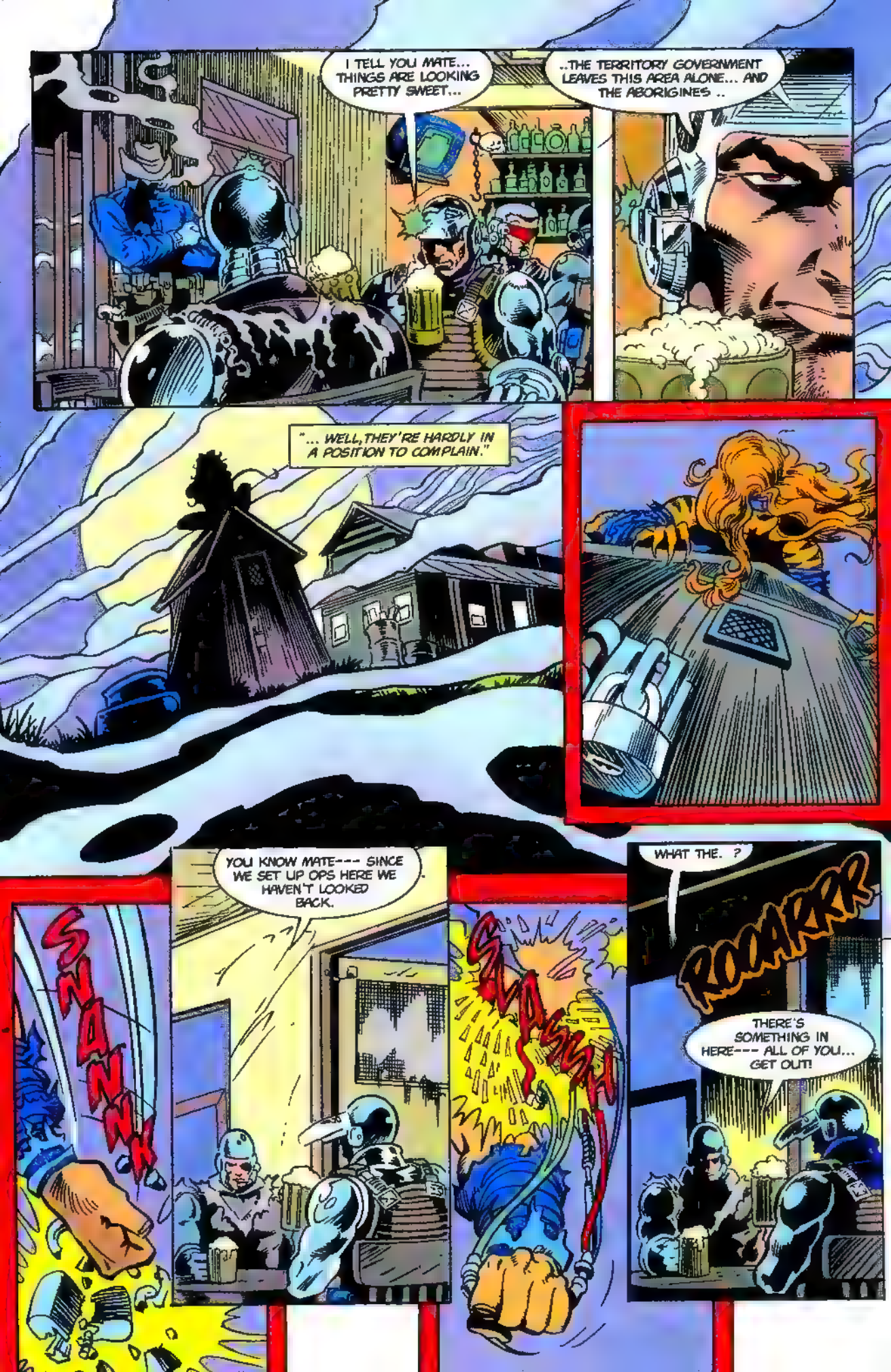
Featuring

TIGRA

ARNHEM LAND
... AN AREA THE SIZE OF ILLINOIS...
... WHERE THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES LIVE AS THEIR ANCESTORS HAVE FOR 40,000 YEARS.
ARNHEM LAND...
... MY HOME.

THE RAIDERS CAME...
... KILLED TWO...
... CARRIED THE OTHERS AWAY.
THE OLD... THE WOMEN... THE CHILDREN.
THE MEN WERE SPARED...
... HUNTING AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK.
SO DO I!
NOW THEY SEEK RESTITUTION.
REVENGE...
... PAYBACK!

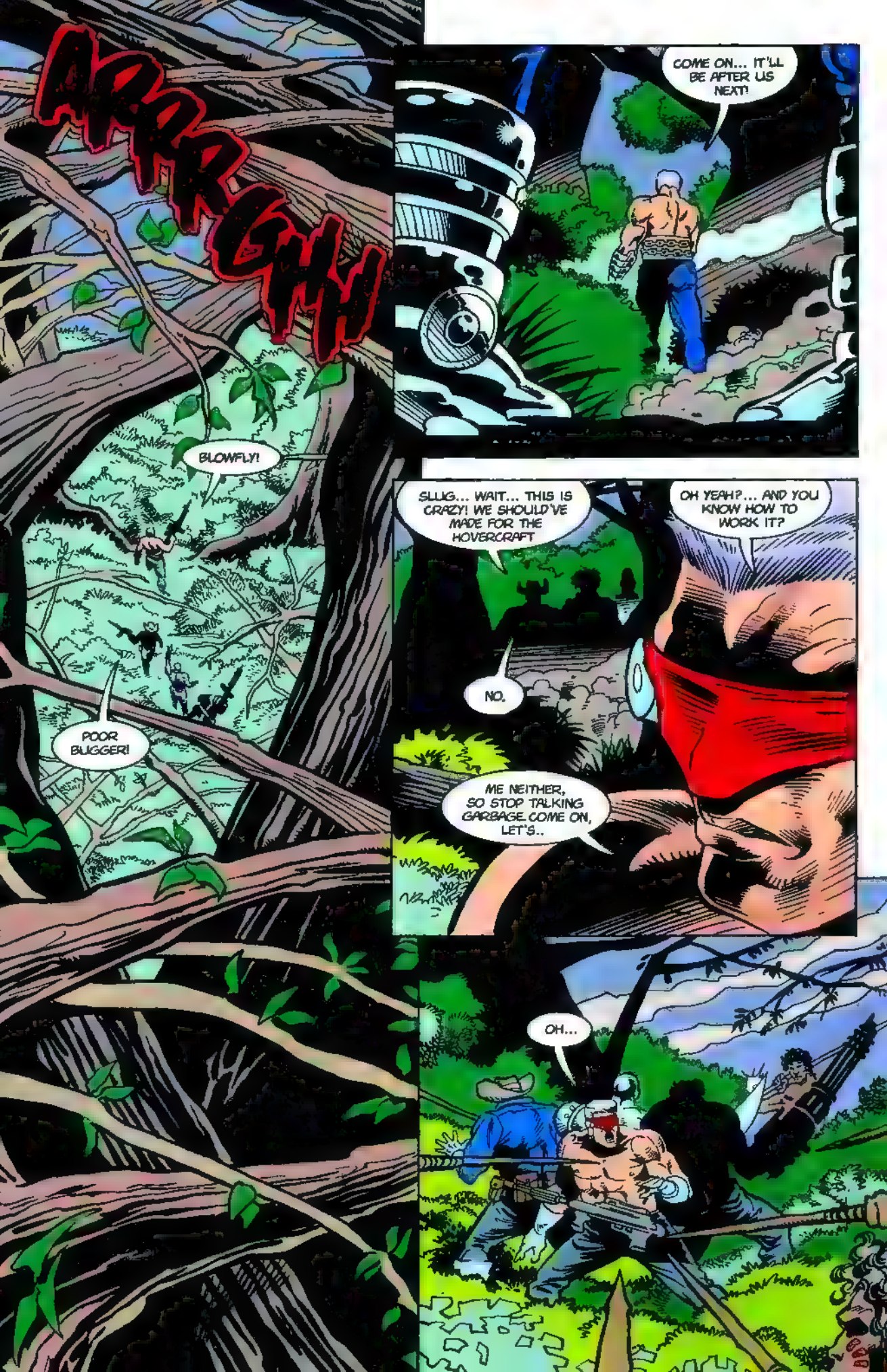

SO BLOWFLY MATE. . HOW'D IT GO?
GOOD AS GOLD, MATE-- HE TOOK ALL THREE!
IN FACT, ONE OF THE SULTAN'S MINISTERS RECKONED HE COULD GO A COUPLE AS WELL..
SO... IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY FIND A HOME FOR ALL OF YOU AFTER ALL.
HA HA HA--- GOOD ONE, MATE.
CARN HEINRICH... I NEED A BEER


I TELL YOU MATE... THINGS ARE LOOKING PRETTY SWEET...
..THE TERRITORY GOVERNMENT LEAVES THIS AREA ALONE... AND THE ABORIGINES ..
"... WELL, THEY'RE HARDLY IN A POSITION TO COMPLAIN."
YOU KNOW MATE--- SINCE WE SET UP OPS HERE WE HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK.
SNANNK
SLASSH
WHAT THE. ?
ROOARRR
THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE--- ALL OF YOU... GET OUT!

COME ON... MOVE IT!
HOW MANY STILL IN THERE?
I DUNNO... TWO... NO, THREE.
BLOW... WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
WHO GIVES A SOD! HEINRICH... INSIDE!
YOU GOT IT, MATE... ONE DEAD CAT COMIN' RIGHT...
AOOARRRGHHHH-HHH
ARRGHHHHH
HEINRICH?

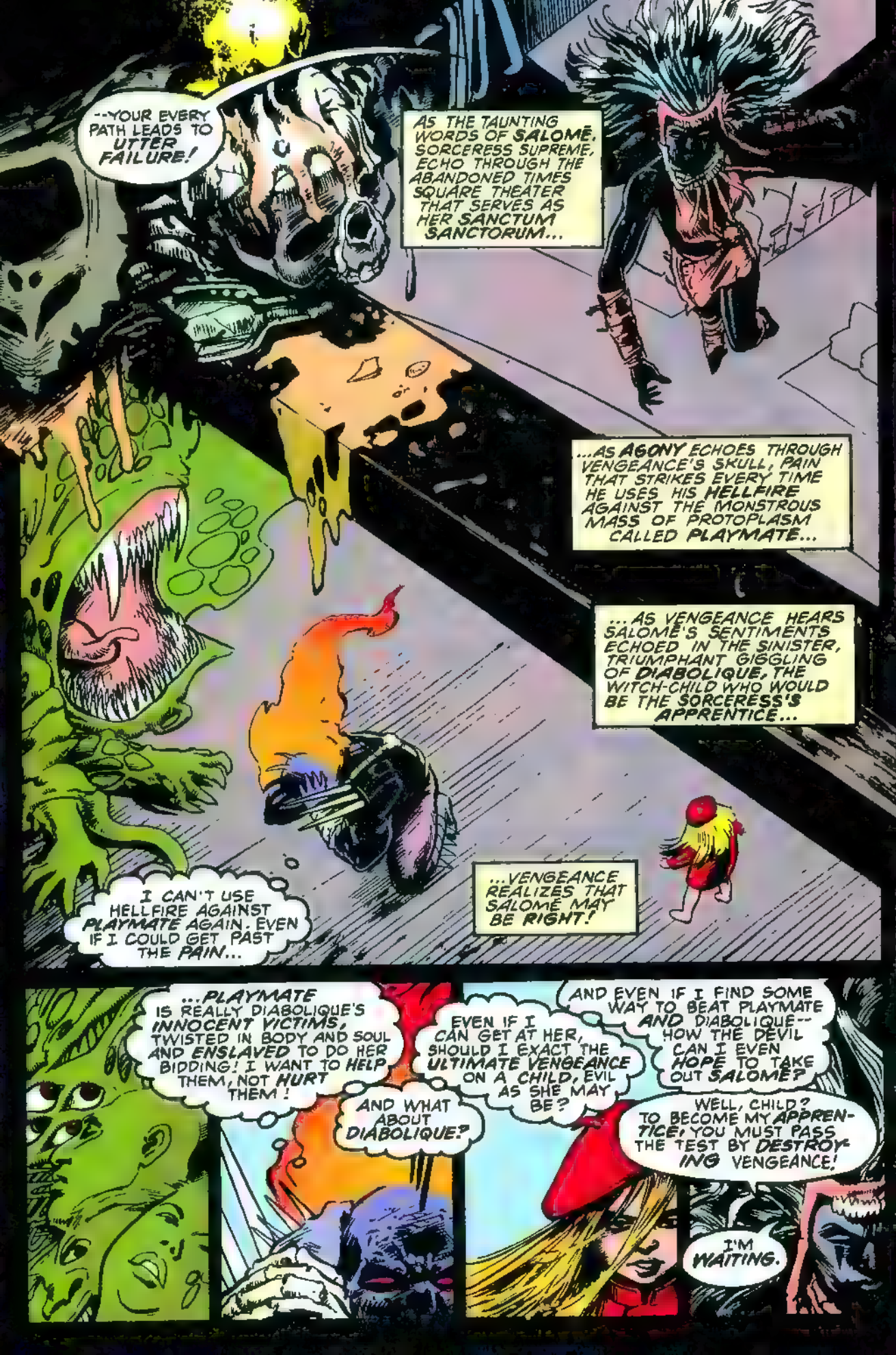
BRATTA
WAIT FOR ME!
THAT'S IT... I'M OUTTA HERE!
RATTA
YOU YELLOW $%!*...
GET BACK HERE!
YOU SEE! THE CAVE'S EMPTY! I TELL YOU, IT'S ALL JUST SOME ABO...
... TRICK?
GRRRRRRGHH

BRATTA RATTA RATTA
BRATTA RATTA RATTA
RAAGHHH!!
AHHH.
NO... NO...


ARRGHH
COME ON... IT'LL BE AFTER US NEXT!
BLOWFLY!
POOR BUGGER!
SLUG... WAIT... THIS IS CRAZY! WE SHOULD'VE MADE FOR THE HOVERCRAFT
OH YEAH?... AND YOU KNOW HOW TO WORK IT?
NO.
ME NEITHER, SO STOP TALKING GARBAGE. COME ON, LET'S..
OH...

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MARVEL
MIDNIGHT SONS
VENGEANCE MACE
NEW WARRIORS TIGRA
DIRECT EDITION
16311
$1.75 US

YOU CAN'T WIN, VENGEANCE! NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO--
BOOM
RAAAHR!
VENGEANCE IN
THE TEST

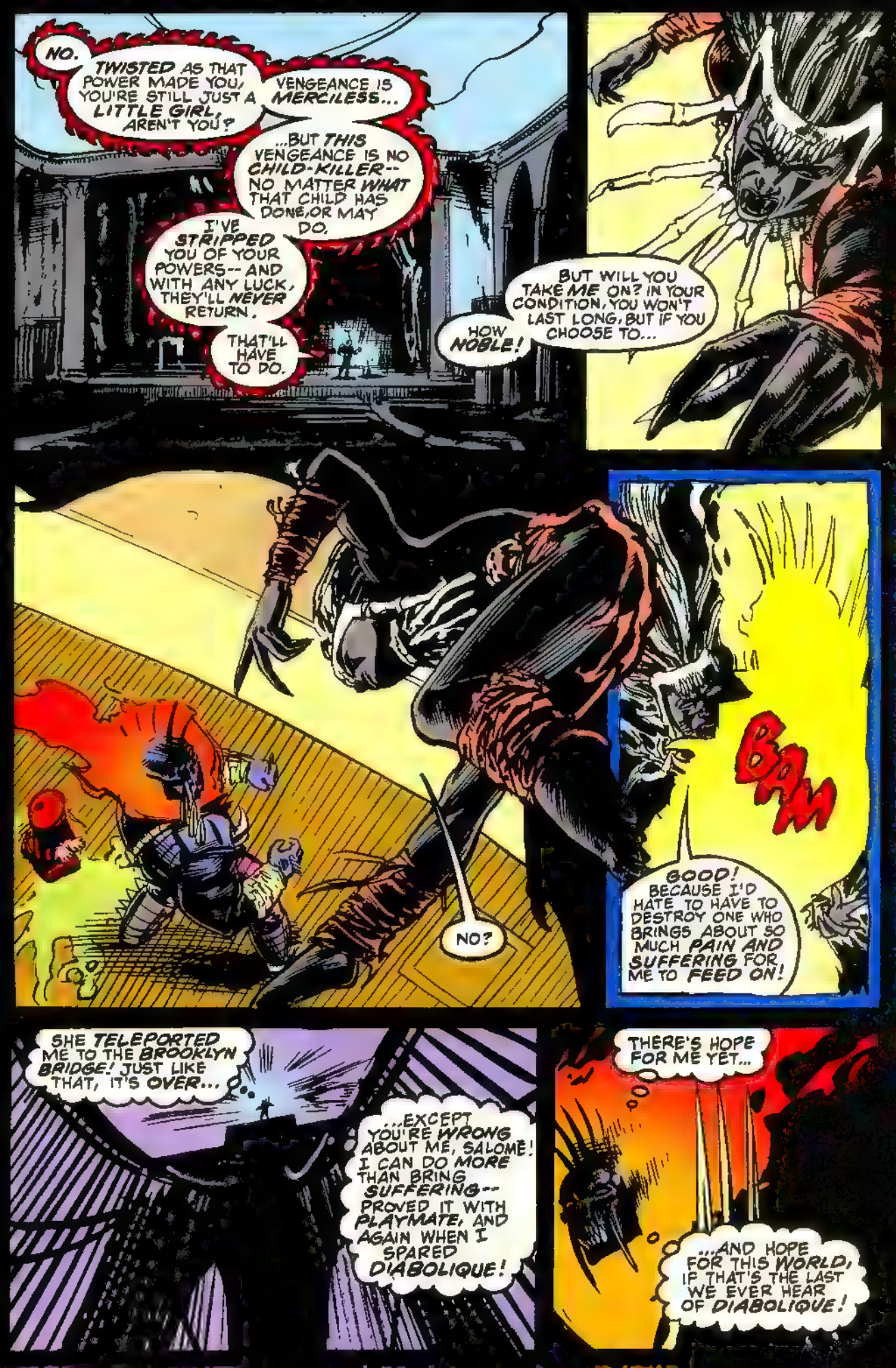

--YOUR EVERY PATH LEADS TO UTTER FAILURE!
AS THE TAUNTING WORDS OF SALOMÉ, SORCERESS SUPREME, ECHO THROUGH THE ABANDONED TIMES SQUARE THEATER THAT SERVES AS HER SANCTUM SANCTORUM...
...AS AGONY ECHOES THROUGH VENGEANCE'S SKULL, PAIN THAT STRIKES EVERY TIME HE USES HIS HELLFIRE AGAINST THE MONSTROUS MASS OF PROTOPLASM CALLED PLAYMATE...
...AS VENGEANCE HEARS SALOMÉ'S SENTIMENTS ECHOED IN THE SINISTER, TRIUMPHANT GIGGLING OF DIABOLIQUE, THE WITCH-CHILD WHO WOULD BE THE SORCERESS'S APPRENTICE...
I CAN'T USE HELLFIRE AGAINST PLAYMATE AGAIN. EVEN IF I COULD GET PAST THE PAIN...
...VENGEANCE REALIZES THAT SALOMÉ MAY BE RIGHT!
...PLAYMATE IS REALLY DIABOLIQUE'S INNOCENT VICTIMS, TWISTED IN BODY AND SOUL AND ENSLAVED TO DO HER BIDDING! I WANT TO HELP THEM, NOT HURT THEM!
AND WHAT ABOUT DIABOLIQUE?
EVEN IF I CAN GET AT HER, SHOULD I EXACT THE ULTIMATE VENGEANCE ON A CHILD, EVIL AS SHE MAY BE?
AND EVEN IF I FIND SOME WAY TO BEAT PLAYMATE AND DIABOLIQUE-- HOW THE DEVIL CAN I EVEN HOPE TO TAKE OUT SALOMÉ?
WELL, CHILD? TO BECOME MY APPRENTICE, YOU MUST PASS THE TEST BY DESTROYING VENGEANCE!
I'M WAITING.

:SIGH: POOR PLAYMATE~ HELLFIRE HURTS IT SO!
I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF... ME AND MY DOLLY!
DO YOU LIKE MY DOLLY, VENGEANCE? I DRESSED HIM UP ALL BY MYSELF. EVEN GAVE HIM REAL HELLFIRE...
*IN ISSUE #160. --RICHARD
...HELLFIRE I SAVED FROM YOU.*
SNAP!
SNAP
AAAARRRGH!
OH MY. I BROKE DOLLY'S ARM!

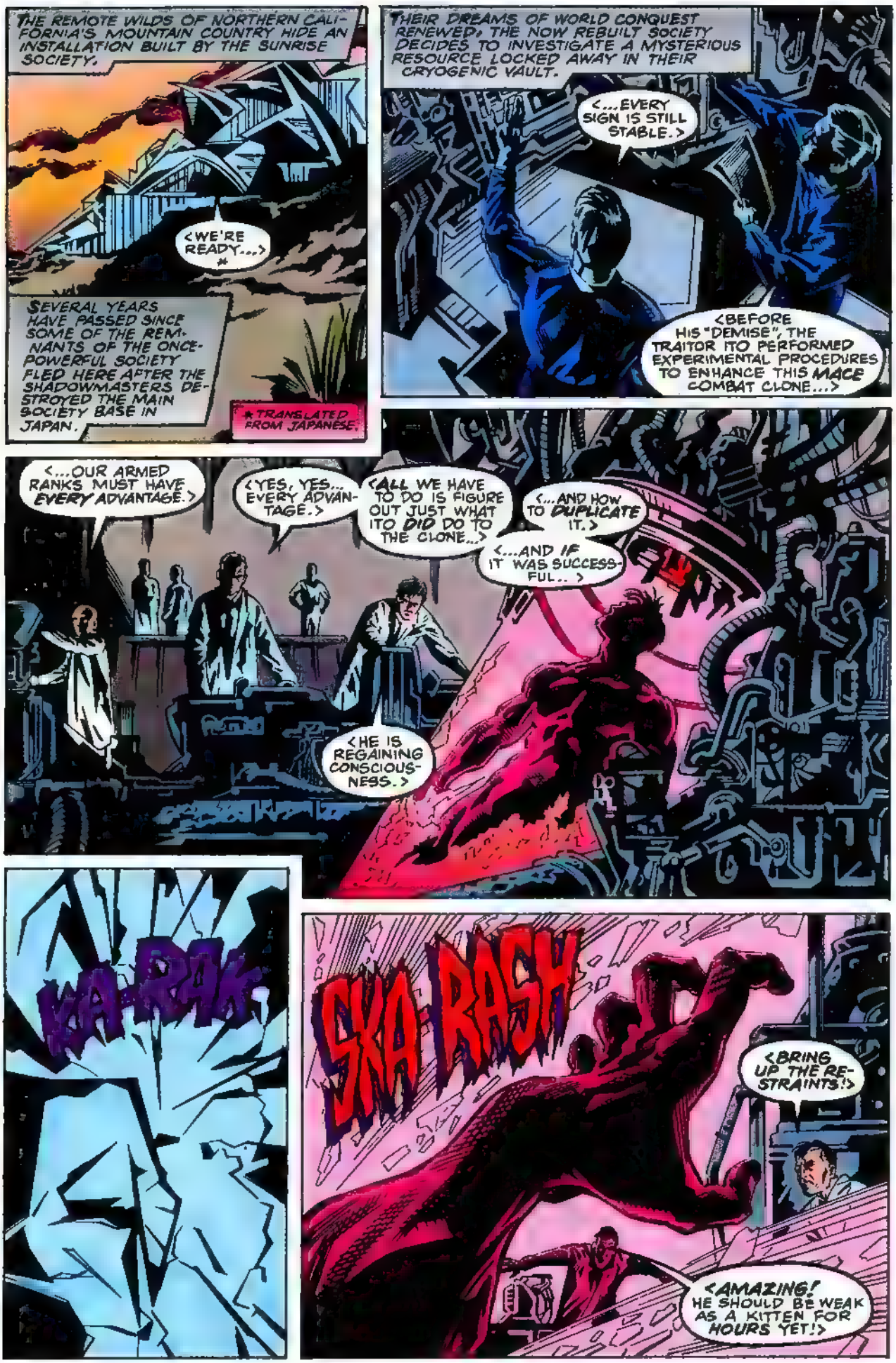
LOOK, DOLLY! VENGEANCE IS SO SILLY--
WHUUMP
--PLAYING MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO!
WHAM
I HURT MY HAND THAT TIME! THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, DOLLY...
THWAAM
UUNNNGH...
WHA--?
NOT NICE AT ALL.
NO!
AAAH-
AAARGH!
I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU ANYMORE, DOLLY.
WHAM
WHAM
NOT ONE TEENY, TINY BIT.
KRUNCH

REMARKABLE! VENGEANCE IS NEARLY UNDONE-- AND AT THE HANDS OF THIS CHILD?!
SHE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN I REALIZED. IT WILL PAY TO KEEP HER CLOSE ... TO USE AS I SEE FIT, OR DESTROY IF SHE BECOMES A THREAT!
FINISH HIM, CHILD-- AND TAKE YOUR PLACE AT MY SIDE!
NO... MUSN'T ALLOW... Eh?
IT WAS A LITTLE PART OF PLAYMATE... SO SMALL IT ALMOST DIDN'T CATCH VENGEANCE'S EYE...
...A PART THAT, FOR AN INSTANT, WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE SIMPLEST OF GESTURES WHILE DIABOLIQUE'S ATTENTION WAS ELSEWHERE.
HE CAN ALMOST HEAR A VOICE WHISPER: "PLEASE."
BUT IN THAT INSTANT, VENGEANCE FINALLY UNDERSTANDS.
PLAYMATE WANTS HIS HELP, NEEDS TO BE FREE. ITS SUFFERING MUST END.
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO END IT.
SO VENGEANCE GIVES IT EVERYTHING HE HAS LEFT...
KA-HOOM

AAAAAHH!
...NO MATTER THE PAIN TO HIMSELF.
NN-GAAARGH!!
Oh, BOTHER...
...WHAT A WASTE OF TRULY EXQUISITE SUFFERING
Wha-- WHAT DID YOU DO??
PLAYMATE... THE BATTERY FOR MY POWERS ...MY ONLY FRIEND...
...DEAD?! SNIFF
YOU WON'T NEED FRIENDS, WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO CREATE ANOTHER HORROR LIKE THAT AGAIN.
YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THESE HANDS CAN DO. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO--


NO.
TWISTED AS THAT POWER MADE YOU, YOU'RE STILL JUST A LITTLE GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
VENGEANCE IS MERCILESS...
...BUT THIS VENGEANCE IS NO CHILD-KILLER-- NO MATTER WHAT THAT CHILD HAS DONE, OR MAY DO.
I'VE STRIPPED YOU OF YOUR POWERS-- AND WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL NEVER RETURN.
THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.
HOW NOBLE!
BUT WILL YOU TAKE ME ON? IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU WON'T LAST LONG, BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO...
NO?
BAM
GOOD! BECAUSE I'D HATE TO HAVE TO DESTROY ONE WHO BRINGS ABOUT SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING FOR ME TO FEED ON!
SHE TELEPORTED ME TO THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE! JUST LIKE THAT, IT'S OVER...
...EXCEPT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT ME, SALOMÉ! I CAN DO MORE THAN BRING SUFFERING-- PROVED IT WITH PLAYMATE, AND AGAIN WHEN I SPARED DIABOLIQUE!
THERE'S HOPE FOR ME YET...
...AND HOPE FOR THIS WORLD, IF THAT'S THE LAST WE EVER HEAR OF DIABOLIQUE!

WHILE, BACK AT THE THEATER...
Oh, PLAYMATE... :Sob:
STOP THAT SNIVELING!
THAT ACT WON'T FOOL ME-- BESIDES, YOU DID WELL ON THE TEST.
I DID??
SAVING YOURSELF FROM VENGEANCE WITH THAT "LITTLE GIRL" ROUTINE WAS A BRILLIANT STRATEGEM!
POWER IS NOTHING WITHOUT THE CLEVERNESS TO USE IT PROPERLY. WITHOUT YOUR POWERS, YOU STILL HAD WHAT REALLY COUNTS--
--THE CLEVERNESS TO SURVIVE! YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR FIRST LESSON!
BOOM
NOW GO-- REBUILD YOUR POWER, CREATE A NEW PLAYMATE -- IT WILL TAKE TIME...
...THEN COME AND SEE ME AGAIN, AND WE'LL DISCUSS THIS MATTER OF AN APPRENTICESHIP!
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CITY...
I'M SO SICK OF THIS DAILY GRIND... BILL AND I ARE STUCK IN COMFORTABLE BOREDOM AT HOME...
DUH
...I JUST WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO HAPPEN--
EXCUSE ME... I'M LOST, AND I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY, AND I WAS WONDERING...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY NEW MOTHER?
THE END?

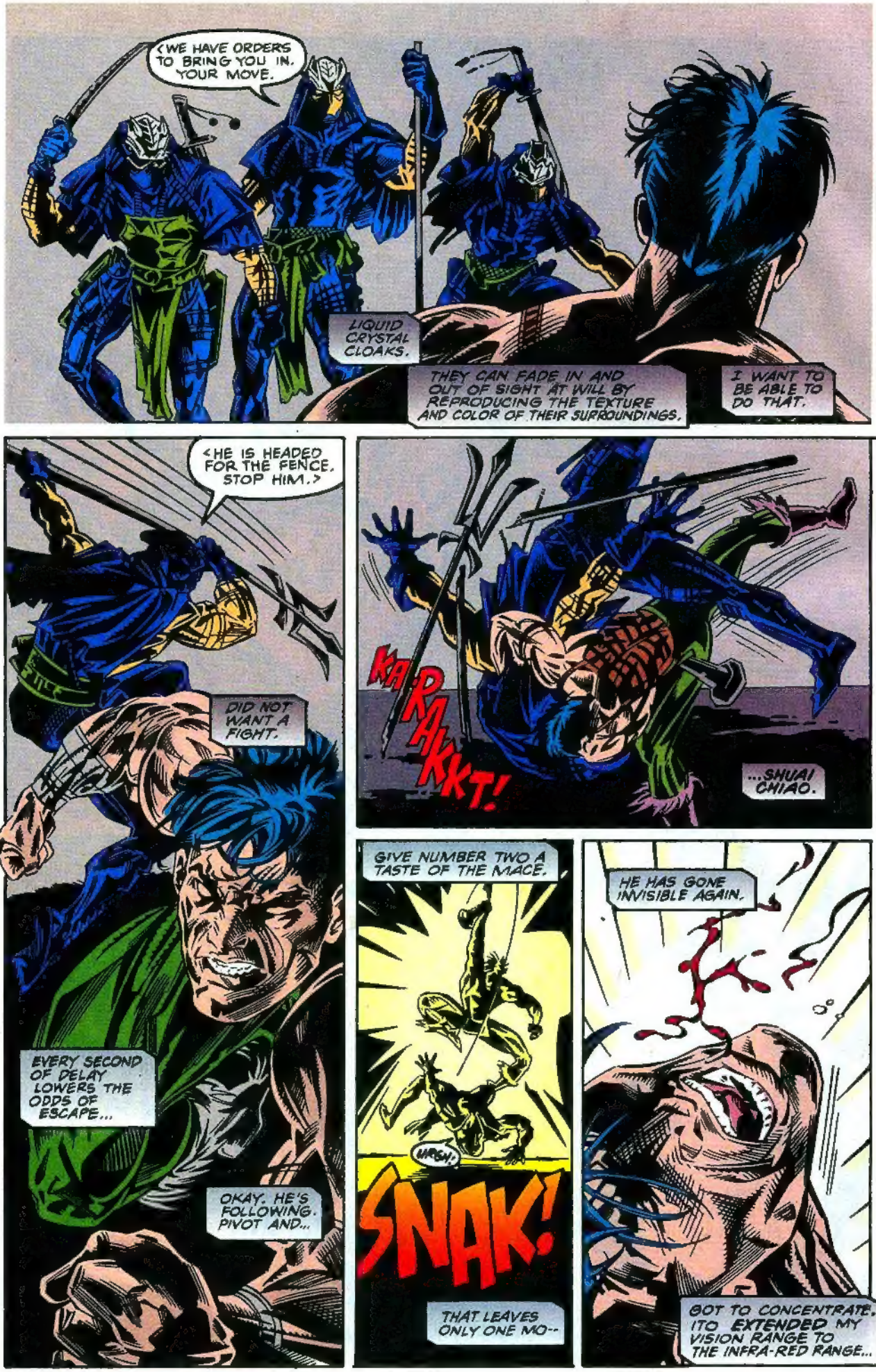

THE REMOTE WILDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MOUNTAIN COUNTRY HIDE AN INSTALLATION BUILT BY THE SUNRISE SOCIETY.
<WE'RE READY...>
SEVERAL YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE SOME OF THE REMNANTS OF THE ONCE-POWERFUL SOCIETY FLED HERE AFTER THE SHADOWMASTERS DESTROYED THE MAIN SOCIETY BASE IN JAPAN.
* TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.
THEIR DREAMS OF WORLD CONQUEST RENEWED, THE NOW REBUILT SOCIETY DECIDES TO INVESTIGATE A MYSTERIOUS RESOURCE LOCKED AWAY IN THEIR CRYOGENIC VAULT.
<...EVERY SIGN IS STILL STABLE.>
<BEFORE HIS "DEMISE", THE TRAITOR ITO PERFORMED EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES TO ENHANCE THIS MACE COMBAT CLONE...>
<...OUR ARMED RANKS MUST HAVE EVERY ADVANTAGE.>
<YES, YES... EVERY ADVANTAGE.>
<ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT ITO DID DO TO THE CLONE...>
<...AND HOW TO DUPLICATE IT.>
<...AND IF IT WAS SUCCESSFUL..>
<HE IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.>
KA-RAK
SKA-RASH
<BRING UP THE RESTRAINTS!>
<AMAZING! HE SHOULD BE WEAK AS A KITTEN FOR HOURS YET!>

THE MACE
ORIGINS: PART FOUR
CREATED BY CARL POTTS AND BARRY CRAIN
SO COLD.
SO WEAK.
SO... CONFUSED.
<SECURE HIM AND BRING HIM TO THE BOARDROOM.>
<BRING ALONG HIS SPECIAL WEAPONS.>

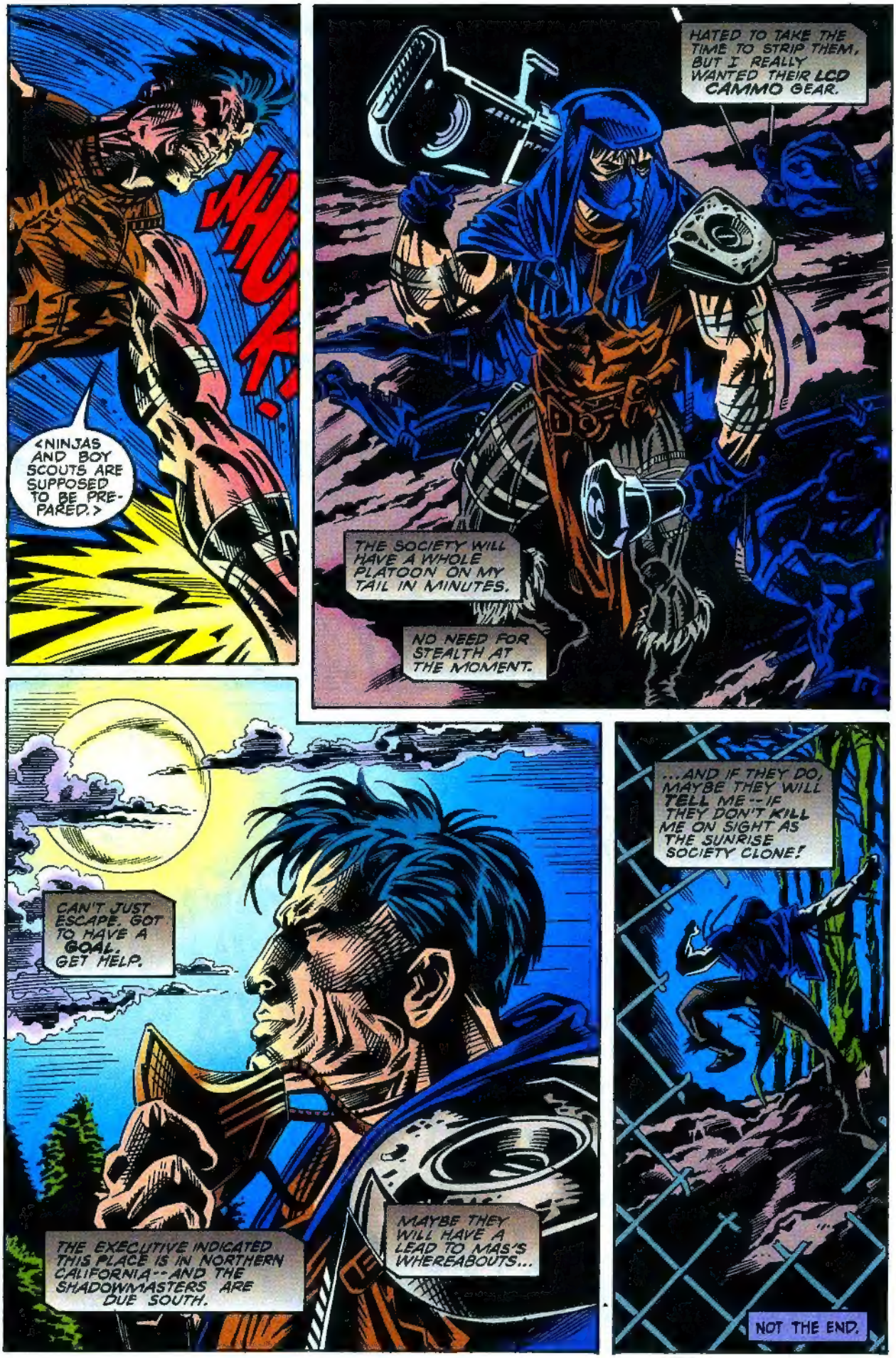
<HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN UNDER?>
<WE WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS HERE, CLONE.>
<IF YOU ARE COOPERATIVE IN EVERY WAY, YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A LIFE OF GENEROUS REWARDS.>
<YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DO NOT COOPERATE.>
YOUR NINPO INSTRUCTOR AND DR. ITO'S FORMER BODYGUARD. >
<MAS KIMURA.>
<YES. GOOD. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF HIS WHEREABOUTS?>
<NO IDEA.>
<THAT IS TOO BAD. HE MAY HAVE ITO'S FILES ON DISC. NOW WE WILL HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT ITO DID TO YOU... THE HARD WAY.>
<IF YOU SURVIVE THE PROCESS, YOU CAN PROVE YOUR LOYALTY BY TRACKING DOWN AND DESTROYING THE LAST FEW SHADOWMASTERS.>
<WE BELIEVE THEY ARE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THIS STATE... IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA.>
MAS ALIVE!?
MUST FIND HIM. HE CAN HELP ME— CONTINUE MY TRAINING...
...I CAN LEARN HOW TO CONTROL MY ABILITIES.
<TAKE HIM BACK TO THE LAB. PREPARE HIM FOR THE TESTS.>
<KIND OF A SMALL RUNT. MUST BE AN EARLY MODEL.>
<THESE ODD MACE TRUNCHEONS LOOK PRETTY USELESS TOO.>
<RUMOR HAS IT THAT ITO GAVE YOU ENHANCED HEALING ABILITIES...>
<...YOU ARE GOING TO NEED THEM IN HERE WHEN THEY START SLICING AND DICING.>
<IN YOU GO, RUNT.>
HAVE TO ESCAPE.

STILL WEAK BUT HAVE TO MOVE WHILE STILL IN ONE PIECE.
I'M THROUGH THE DOOR FIRST. HAVE TWO SECONDS TO SLAM IT AND...
<NO, BUT KIMURA WAS PRETTY HELPFUL.>
KLUDD!
<WHERE DID HE GO?>
<DID ITO MAKE HIM INVISIBLE?>
WAK
<THE MACE DOES NOT SEEM SO USELESS NOW...>
<...DOES IT?>
WAK

LOST CONTROL.
MAS TAUGHT ME BETTER THAN THAT.
TIME TO GRAB MY GEAR AND GO FIND HIM.
<YES.>
THIS LASER/SHOTGUN IS DEFINITELY THE ONE DR. ITO CUSTOMIZED FOR ME.
PLUGS INTO THE CIRCUIT TATTOO THAT RUNS UP MY ARM TO MY EYE--* HUD-STYLE TARGETING ON-LINE.
*HEADS UP DISPLAY-- A LOOK-AND-SHOOT TARGETING SYSTEM WITH SIGHTS SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE USER'S VISION.
STRENGTH COMING BACK FAST NOW.
GOT TO CLEAR THE ELECTRIFIED FENCE IN ONE LEAP AND...
?!!
SPLANG!


<WE HAVE ORDERS TO BRING YOU IN. YOUR MOVE.
LIQUID CRYSTAL CLOAKS.
THEY CAN FADE IN AND OUT OF SIGHT AT WILL BY REPRODUCING THE TEXTURE AND COLOR OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS.
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.
<HE IS HEADED FOR THE FENCE. STOP HIM.>
DID NOT WANT A FIGHT.
EVERY SECOND OF DELAY LOWERS THE ODDS OF ESCAPE...
OKAY. HE'S FOLLOWING. PIVOT AND...
KA-RAKKT!
...SHUAI CHIAO.
GIVE NUMBER TWO A TASTE OF THE MACE.
URGH!
SNAK!
THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE MO--
HE HAS GONE INVISIBLE AGAIN.
GOT TO CONCENTRATE. ITO EXTENDED MY VISION RANGE TO THE INFRA-RED RANGE...

:Unff:
<YOU ARE TOO DANGEROUS, MACE...>
...SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HIS HEAT SILHOUETTE.
<...NOW I PUT A STOP TO THIS DRAIN OF SOCIETY RESOURCES.>
HIS WEAPONS ARE VISIBLE.
AND I AM PICKING OUT A BIT OF HIS FORM.
SHLUKK!
GOT TO START FIGHTING LIKE SOMEONE WITH HEIGHTENED HEALING ABILITIES.
<YOU-- YOU CANNOT DO THAT!>
<"SEEING" IS BELIEVING.>
SPLANG
<THEY DID NOT TELL US YOU COULD...>
SPLANG


WHUK!
<NINJAS AND BOY SCOUTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PREPARED.>
HATED TO TAKE THE TIME TO STRIP THEM, BUT I REALLY WANTED THEIR LCD CAMMO GEAR.
THE SOCIETY WILL HAVE A WHOLE PLATOON ON MY TAIL IN MINUTES.
NO NEED FOR STEALTH AT THE MOMENT.
CAN'T JUST ESCAPE. GOT TO HAVE A GOAL. GET HELP.
THE EXECUTIVE INDICATED THIS PLACE IS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA--AND THE SHADOWMASTERS ARE DUE SOUTH.
MAYBE THEY WILL HAVE A LEAD TO MAS'S WHEREABOUTS...
...AND IF THEY DO, MAYBE THEY WILL TELL ME--IF THEY DON'T KILL ME ON SIGHT AS THE SUNRISE SOCIETY CLONE!
NOT THE END.

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